

Israel, allies shell Lebanese villages

RASHAYA (R) — Israeli and allied militia gunners shelled a string of villages in South Lebanon on Saturday after the third guerrilla rocket attack in 48 hours, security sources said. They said five Soviet-made rockets hit the town of Marjayoun, 12 kilometres north of Israel, at midday. Artillery batteries in the Jewish state's self-declared "security zone" pounded several villages in the southern part of the Bekaa Valley. There were no reports of casualties in the exchanges and the rocket strikes caused only light damage. It was not known which group carried out the Khatayoun attacks. Five rockets hit Marjayoun, where the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) maintains its headquarters, on Friday and four were fired on Thursday. The pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) has stepped up its hit-and-run guerrilla attacks on Israeli and SLA forces inside the "security zone."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جordan Times يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)

Volume 16 Number 4875

AMMAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1991, JUMADEH AL AKHRA 2, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

King voices optimism over Jordan-Gulf ties

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said in a newspaper interview that Saudi-Jordanian relations marred by the Gulf crisis are beginning to improve but Jordan is also seeking improvement of relations with the rest of the Gulf states because the Kingdom sees the strain in relations as temporary.

Oman is playing a mediation role to bring about improved relations between Jordan and the Gulf countries as the Sultanate has continued to maintain strong relations with Jordan, expressing understanding of the Jordanian position during the Gulf crisis, King Hussein said in an interview with the Qatari newspaper Al Arab published Saturday.

"For me personally and for the Arab Nation what happened in

the Gulf region was a real catastrophe which Jordan had tried to avoid with all its power," the King said.

In reply to a question about the role of the Jordanian press which allegedly contributed to the deterioration of relations, the King said that the press in Jordan is free to write and express views.

"However, once the leaders and people of the Gulf countries study Jordan's position, which opposed any form of military action," they would appreciate Jordan's stand," he said.

"Although Jordan exerted all efforts to avoid the catastrophe by advocating a settlement within the Arab framework, developments took a completely opposite direction," he said.

King Hussein said he never

thought that the Gulf states would adopt a hostile stand towards Jordan since "they had realised all along that Jordan spared no effort or practical action to support them in the face of any internal or external danger."

The King said he had no formal contact with the Iraqi leadership since the start of the Gulf problem, except the known visits during which he tried to defuse the situation.

He said he received Iraqi officials coming to Jordan and Jordan has been sympathising with the Iraqi people who are suffering as a result of the war.

King Hussein reemphasised Jordan's position of opposing any military action taken by the Iraqi leadership. "Since the very beginning Jordan was against Iraq's



occupation of Kuwait and was surprised to see it happen," he added.

He stressed that Jordan was not a party to the conflict or the border dispute between Iraq and Kuwait and any allegation to the

(Continued on page 5)



Upper House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat Saturday present their replies to speech from the

Parliament urges King to continue peace efforts, pledges to work with government

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Saturday presented their replies to His Majesty King Hussein's speech from the throne opening the regular session of Parliament last week. Both the Upper House (Senate) and the Lower House welcomed the King's statement, which is considered the policy statement of the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, emphasised Jordan's role in the Middle East peace process and called on the King to continue close coordination with the Palestinians towards achieving a just and durable peace in the region.

The Senate reply to the King was presented by Speaker Ahmad Lawzi at an audience attended by senators

while the House response was read out by Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, accompanied by deputies.

In broad terms, both replies welcomed the various policy options and programmes outlined in the King's speech from the throne and pledged to work closely with the government (see expanded story on page 3).

The comments by the 80-man House echoed King Hussein's pledges on Sunday to support the Palestinians "under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

The lawmakers urged the government to improve relations with Arab

states, strained during the Gulf crisis. The House, which is usually critical of U.S. policies, lamented a U.S.-led new world order "where there is only space for puppets who implement instructions without arguments."

"We highly value Your Majesty's efforts to convince the world to recognise the rights of the Palestinians, including those of self-determination and an independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital," the reply said.

The House, where Muslim fundamentalists maintain influence, had issued a statement in September rejecting the American-led peace process saying Israel wants to only normalize relations with Arab states without resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem.

"We hope that Jordan will carry on the responsibility of supporting the Palestinians and their struggle to achieve their aspired goals through all the means and ways," said the letter.

which was drafted by a 12-man committee that included five senior Muslim Brotherhood leaders.

While this phrase was seen as an implicit endorsement by the House of the ongoing Middle East peace process, the legislature said: "We should always be committed to upholding our principles with no infringements whatsoever."

The House, where Muslim fundamentalists maintain influence, had issued a statement in September rejecting the American-led peace process saying Israel wants to only normalize relations with Arab states without resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem.

"We hope that Jordan will carry on the responsibility of supporting the Palestinians and their struggle to achieve their aspired goals through all the means and ways," said the letter.

shots here," a Sudanese delegate said.

"They can bloc any resolution they don't like. Some leaders think it is not worth coming at all."

King Hassan has traditionally played the role of mediator.

Palestinian sources said they were still uncertain whether Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat would be in Dakar.

Delegates had hoped the summit, the first since January 1989, would be an occasion to heal the deep wounds in the Arab World.

The last summit, in Kuwait, set the stage for Egypt's return to the Arab fold after being ostracised

(Continued on page 5)

OIC summit boycott sets back reconciliation chances

DAKAR (R) — Chances of repairing deep Arab rifts at the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit looked bleak Saturday after key players signalled they were staying away.

Iraq, accusing Gulf war foes Saudi Arabia and unnamed "mercenary" states of conspiring against it, declared it was boycotting the Dakar meeting starting Monday.

The summit will be the sixth since the OIC was set up in 1969 to unite the world's one billion Muslims.

Saudi Arabia was the spring-board for the U.S.-led military campaign which ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait last February.

Iran's official news agency

IRNA said Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Morocco's King Hassan would not attend.

But Mamadou Wahab Talla, the Senegalese minister in charge of summit organisation, told Reuters he had not been informed that the two monarchs had changed their plans to come to Dakar.

He said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, embroiled in a new crisis with the West over terrorism charges, would be absent.

Sudan's Omar Hassan Al Bashir, an ally of Iraq and Libya, was also staying away, Sudanese delegates said.

The official list of participants made no reference to any delegations from Yemen, one of Iraq's

most vocal allies during the crisis over Kuwait.

Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Benbashi is seeking Islamic solidarity against possible U.S.-British-French reprisals over Tripoli's alleged involvement in the bombing of a Pan Am Jumbo jet over Scotland in 1988 and the destruction of a French airliner over the Sahara the following year.

Saudi Arabia, where the OIC is based, is one of the main players of the 46-member group. With Kuwait it footed virtually the entire \$145 million bill for staging the summit in Senegal, which sent troops to help drive Iraqi forces from the emirate.

The Saudis and their Gulf Arab allies are calling all the

mistake and he was cutting links with the IRA, fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Libya Friday denied a report by a state-owned Egyptian newspaper that it had offered to hand over to an Arab country two of its nationals accused by the West of blowing up the Pan Am airliner.

His remarks were the latest conciliatory statement in the row over Western charges that Libya was behind the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet over Scotland.

"We stopped supporting the IRA a long time ago, I announced it over a year ago," envoy Ali Tariki told a news conference.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said in an interview published on Friday Libya's support for extremist groups had been a

mistake and he was cutting links with the IRA, fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Libya Friday denied a report by a state-owned Egyptian newspaper that it had offered to hand over to an Arab country two of its nationals accused by the West of blowing up the Pan Am airliner.

"The report is not true," a spokesman for the Libyan mission in Cairo told Reuters. He denied that Mr. Tariki made such an offer to the 21-member body.

The Egyptian newspaper Akhbar Al Youm, in early Saturday editions, said: "Libya's Arab League envoy offered to hand over the two Libyans accused of

(Continued on page 5)

Arab-Israeli talks to continue in Washington Tuesday

Negotiations will tackle substance as well as procedure

• Arab side expects U.S. capital to serve as venue for some time

From Jordan Times Staff Reporters in Washington

AFTER SEVERAL days of heated wrangling over the continuation of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks in Washington, both sides have finally agreed to sit around the negotiating table Tuesday to discuss both procedural and substantive issues which could move the peace process forward.

In statements to the press following a meeting they held Saturday morning (Washington time), the heads of the Arab delegations announced that they were preparing for "substantive" bilateral talks with Israel on Tuesday and indicated that they would reject an Israeli request to move to another venue until progress is achieved.

The announcement coincided with statements by Israeli officials that they too would be attending the Tuesday talks, and would be ready to

discuss some issues of substance. According to informed sources, the Israelis would be willing to discuss substantive issues with the Arabs, except for issues related to land, water, and the source of authority for Palestinian autonomy. "The Arabs want to talk only about subjects covered by the autonomy talks with Egypt," one of the sources said.

"The Israeli delegation will have no mandate or authority to negotiate over the three other issues related to water, land and transferring authority to non-Israelis."

"The talks will take place on Tuesday," said Dr. Abdul Salam Majahid, head of the Jordanian team. "There is an understanding and they all know we will be attending on Tuesday," he told reporters.

The breakthrough over the date,

announced after the Arab heads of delegation met at the Willard Hotel, the headquarters for the Jordanian team, was achieved through strong, albeit largely unpublicized, American mediation efforts, which capitalised on the self-fulfilling desire by either side to resolve the talks.

The Americans have not made any new proposals or invitations for next week's negotiations, as they have insisted all along that they will not, but they have been able to convince both sides of the necessity to resume talks, each side for its own advantages and reasons. Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs, Edward Djerejian who spearheaded U.S. efforts to bring the two sides together, was able to convince the Arabs that it is not in their best interest to put too much pressure on the Israelis at this stage, simply over whether the date should be

(Continued on page 5)

Shamir: Israel flexible on talks this week

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who refused to send a delegation to last week's hastily called peace talks with the Arabs, now says the Jewish state is flexible over the date for resuming negotiations.

"I assume next week the negotiations will continue and if it is one day later or one day earlier this will not harm anything," Mr. Shamir told Israeli Radio in an interview broadcast Saturday.

Mr. Shamir's apparent softening in was marked contrast to his country's stance a few days ago when it refused to take part in talks with the Arabs in Washington last Wednesday, branding what it considered a U.S.-U.S. support for a land-for-peace agreement.

Israel had suggested the talks should resume Monday but Arab delegations rejected that, because it coincides with the fourth anniversary of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

One member of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks said the U.S., in the words of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, should be a "full partner" in the peace process.

The three Arab delegations went to conference rooms in the U.S. State Department last Wednesday to emphasise the Israeli boycott of peace talks.

One of the first issues to come up will be the site of the next round of talks. Mr. Shamir said Israel was still demanding the negotiations be held in the Middle East.

"We said to the Americans we were willing for one or two meetings and then it must shift to this region. I hope the Arabs will also understand that our position must be taken into consideration," Mr. Shamir said.

Moscow, however, is the most likely venue for multilateral talks between Israel and the Arabs at the end of January.

Babil accuses Talabani of lies, duplicity and Mossad links

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi newspaper Saturday accused Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani of lies, duplicity and links with Israel.

Mr. Talabani, co-leader of the Kurdistan Front.

Mr. Talabani has criticised a draft autonomy deal negotiated by Mr. Barzani as insufficient.

The Iraqi News Agency said President Saddam Hussein held talks Saturday with Sami Abdo Rahim, secretary-general of the Kurdish Popular Democratic Party, one of eight parties in the Kurdistan Front.

It said the meeting was attended by the vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, Izzat Ibrahim, who represents the government in the autonomy talks.

The United States Friday expressed concern at a renewed Kurdish refugee crisis in northern Iraq.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said: "The United Nations people there on the ground tell us they believe they can handle this situation. It is something that is a concern to us, and something that

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli absence at talks, U.S. 'shift' draw criticism in Jordan

By Serene Halasa

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The absence of Israel at the negotiating table with the Arabs in Washington last week has drawn criticism and disdain from Jordanian analysts and political observers, who also cast doubt on the seriousness and commitment of the American administration in playing the role of an honest mediator.

Israel's boycott of the talks on Dec. 4 — the date set by the U.S. administration in what Washington now describes as a "proposal" rather than an "invitation" — and its insistence on Dec. 9 to pick up where bilateral talks with Arabs were left off in Madrid last month was seen by most analysts and observers as an effort to undermine the American role in the peace process.

In the meantime, the Arab presence in Washington on the appointed date was seen as a

scoring point to the Arab side, especially that the Arab attendance and Israeli absence under the decades-old Israeli assertion that the Jewish state is ready to negotiate peace with Arabs anytime, any place.

However, the subsequent American reaction to the Israeli stand and what were obviously seen as Washington's efforts to placate the Jewish state have given rise to doubts on the seriousness of the Bush administration to see through the peace process it launched following the Gulf war earlier this year.

Dr. Hazem Nusseibeh, the former Jordanian ambassador to the United Nations, described Israel's absence at the talks as "audacious failure."

"Israel's behaviour is a statement on its position on the entire peace process," said Dr. Nusseibeh. "It is not simply a reaction on the date of the conference."

Mr. Nusseibeh and his colleagues at the University of Jordan, "Israel is sending a signal to the Americans that they will not put up with pressure."

"It is clear that the Israelis want Americans out of the talks as much as the Arabs want them in," Dr. Nusseibeh said referring to Israel's argument that the U.S. cannot dictate terms in the peace process and that the Arabs had been misled by the U.S. into thinking that Washington would apply pressure on its long-time Middle East ally to a solution based on "land-for-peace."

On the other hand, Ramzi Khouri, a former editor-in-chief of the Jordan Times and a renowned columnist, believes that the Israeli position was "totally expected" and "related to the tug-of-war between Israel and the United States."

Mr. Khouri finds little long-term political significance in

Israel's actions but only "an expression of political anguish."

"We are still in the showmanship phase and we won't see any progress on substantive issues



Agriculture Minister Fayed Khasawneh (centre) Saturday delivers His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's address to the Arab Farmers Cooperatives Conference. Addressing the conference were also Jordan Cooperative Organisation

Modern technology needed to increase food production in Arab World, Crown Prince says

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday urged Arab countries to adopt modern technology in farming and to facilitate the exchange of agricultural products among themselves in a bid to ensure food security for the nation.

The Prince's call came in an address delivered on his behalf by Agriculture Minister Fayed Al Khasawneh at the opening of a three-day conference on farming cooperatives organised by the Arab Farming Cooperatives Federation (AFCF).

Delegates from 11 countries, including Jordan, are discussing general federation policy and plans to promote agricultural cooperatives work with special attention to the occupied Arab lands.

Farmers will always remain the basic factor in the Arab countries' drive to ensure food security, said the Crown Prince in his address. But, he noted, that the farmers and food producers have been victims to numerous pressures in most Arab countries and affected by bureaucratic decisions that overlooked the close relationship between the farmer and the land and the farmers' attachment to their freedoms and independence.

Unfortunately, the Prince said, most government policies had minimised the importance of agriculture as a area for economic development in the Arab world. But, nothing has been done and the \$5 billion allocation for a fund to finance such endeavours for the 1981-1990 era never materialised, he said.

Prince Hassan referred to the civil war in southern Sudan as the major obstacle to agricultural projects designed to ensure food security for that Arab country.

"It is time for the guns and

rockets to fall silent and efforts to be directed towards producing food to rid the Arab World of poverty and hunger," Prince Has-

san said.

According to the Prince Hassan, the inhabitants of the Arab World constitute 4.4 per cent of the total world population, but the total Arab World's food production constitutes only 1.6 per cent of the overall world production.

Between 1981 and 1983, the Arab World imported 23 million tonnes of cereals on an annual basis, rising to 33 million in 1989, he said.

The Crown Prince urged the meeting to give due concern to issues facing Arab farmers and cooperatives as part of an overall effort to find solutions to the food security issue in the Arab World.

Prince Hassan's views were echoed by Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director General Jamal Al Bedour, who referred to the numerous challenges facing the Arabs.

The Agricultural sector is the source of income for 53 per cent of Arabs but food production remains low, he said.

Mr. Bedour estimated the Arab World's needs of imported food by the end of the present century at \$360 billion. He said it is regrettable that only \$2 billion has been invested in agriculture over the past two decades, accounting for only 11.4 per cent of total Arab investments.

Dr. Bedour urged the federation to adopt a pan-Arab strategy designed to give impetus to economic integration through promoting food production and facilitating the exchange of food products.

Delegates attending the meeting represent Jordan, Sudan, Eritrea, Tunisia, Yemen, Palestine, Mauritania, Syria, Iraq, Libya and Egypt. The delegates are expected to conduct field trips to the northern Jordan Valley region during the upcoming three days.

Prominent American politicians, personalities to attend ADC conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Prominent American politicians, intellectuals, and personalities will attend a two-day meeting in Amman, Wednesday to discuss issues of the Middle East and ways to help Arab-Americans offer service to their home countries.

The Wednesday gathering will take the form of a series of meetings organised by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) to discuss questions related to the Arab homeland and to enhance Arab-Americans' ties with the Arab World, said Wafa Nasser, ADC vice chairman.

Mr. Nasser said that ADC, founded in 1980 for the purpose of defending Arab-American rights, aims to orient Arab-Americans on their Arab culture and end discrimination against

Arab-American students and workers.

He said that the ADC, which has its main office in Washington D.C., groups Arab-Americans, but is backed by Americans of different affiliations. The ADC, which has wide recognition throughout the U.S., has been providing humanitarian assistance to the people of the Middle East through its charitable programme, Mr. Nasser said.

The ADC had lobbied hard to ensure that Israel does not receive a \$10 billion loan guarantee from the U.S., where millions are homeless and in dire need of help, Mr. Nasser said.

The ADC Amman office, he said, is a support centre providing services to Arab citizens. Mr. Nasser said that the ADC has been working hard to promote development in the Arab World in a neutral manner without interfering in the Arab World's internal issues.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Ghaida opens exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Ghaida Talal opened Saturday in the presence of the King's military secretary, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, an art exhibition by Jumana Hussaini at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery. The exhibition, which includes 43 paintings, will last till the end of the month.

German officials leave

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-member German Ministry of Interior delegation left Amman Saturday after a five-day visit to Jordan during which they were received by His Majesty King Hussein. The delegation, which included Hans-Ludwig Zachart, president of the Federal Criminal Investigation Bureau, and Hagen Fabars-

chenky, director of the Anti-Narcotics Department, also held meetings with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoufi and Public Security Department (PSD) Director Major General Fadel Ali Fuheid. The talks centred on ways of promoting Jordanian-German cooperation in criminal investigation fields, particularly in combating drugs.

Lower House to meet Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will hold a meeting today, under the chairmanship of Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat and in the presence of the cabinet members. The agenda of the meeting includes electing the House's permanent and temporary committees, referring several reports issued by the Upper House to the specialised committees and referring the 1992 General Budget Law to the Financial Committee.

Upper, Lower houses call for unity, pledge to work with government

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament Saturday emphasised its backing to the government's endeavour to coordinate Jordan's position with those of the Palestinians and other Arab countries for the sake of achieving a just and durable Middle East peace.

The House also supported the government's efforts to restructure the national economy and expressed its pride in the Armed Forces, which it pledged to support and strengthen to provide protection to the nation in the face of all dangers.

The Upper House made the commitment in a reply speech to the speech from the throne delivered by His Majesty King Hussein to Parliament last Sunday.

The reply speech, delivered before His Majesty King Hussein in a traditional ceremony held at Raghada Palace, said that the house members take pride in the democratic process being applied in Jordan and the King's directives aimed at attaining further progress and a better life for Jordanians.

Practising democracy requires full awareness and commitment to values, principles and laws, otherwise the country would live in anarchy and the people would lose their freedom and their dignity, said House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi as he read from the speech.

"We are keen on maintaining dialogue among various groups based on mutual respect and to avoid all tendencies that could create divisions and mistrust," said Mr. Lawzi.

The National Charter contained principles and concepts that can form a framework for close cooperation between Parliament and the executive authority and the Upper House looks forward to such cooperation with a view to promoting development in the country in all fields, said Mr. Lawzi.

The House is keen on maintaining such cooperation to develop education, the national economy, social work and public administration as well as to safeguard the environment, human rights, and social justice," Mr. Lawzi added.

The Upper House, he said, will contribute towards bringing into force a law on political parties and another on press and publications among other laws to be submitted by the government.

Noting that Jordan has continuously dealt with the Palestine question in the spirit of national responsibility, Mr. Lawzi said that the Upper House will continue to back the government's endeavour to help the Palestinians regain their rights and their usurped lands including Arab Jerusalem.

The Upper House will also support the government's efforts to reach a peaceful settlement through the Middle East peace conference based on the principles of justice. It will also support the government's drive to coordinate positions towards this end with the Palestinians and other Arab states, Mr. Lawzi said.

The Upper House will support all steps to strengthen the Armed Forces — the shield of the nation — and measures to provide protection to the nation in the face of all dangers.

The Upper House made the commitment in a reply speech to the speech from the throne delivered by His Majesty King Hussein to Parliament last Sunday.

The reply speech, delivered before His Majesty King Hussein in a traditional ceremony held at Raghada Palace, said that the house members take pride in the democratic process being applied in Jordan and the King's directives aimed at attaining further progress and a better life for Jordanians.

Practising democracy requires full awareness and commitment to values, principles and laws, otherwise the country would live in anarchy and the people would lose their freedom and their dignity, said House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi as he read from the speech.

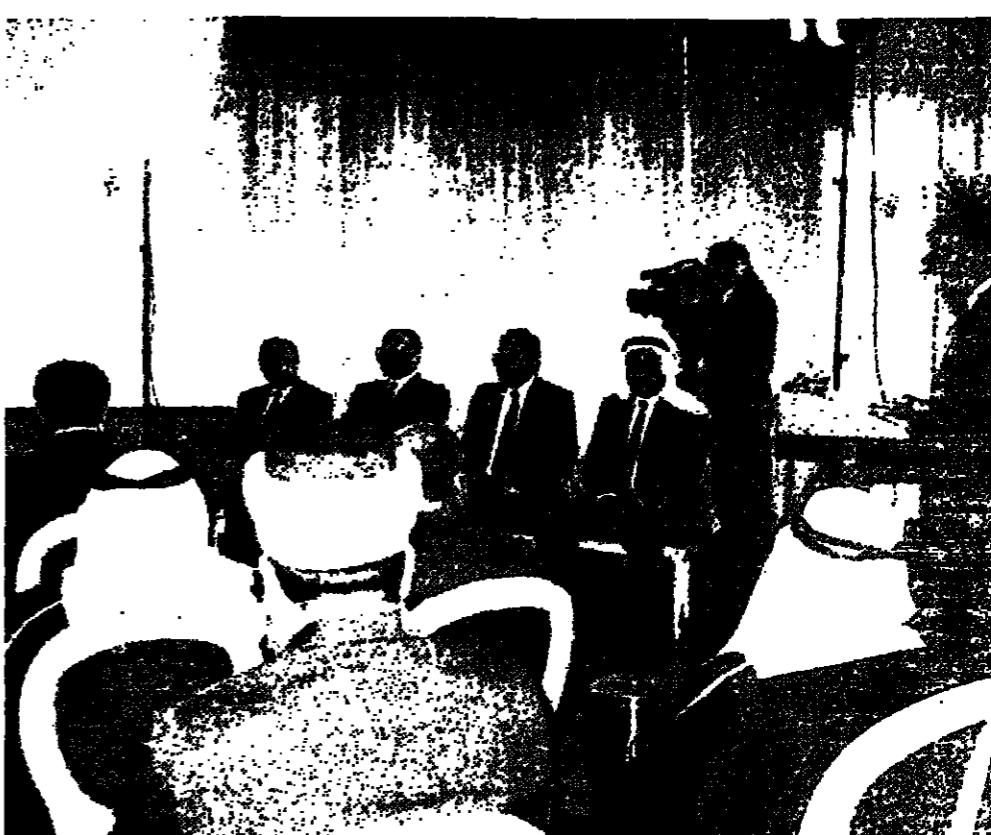
"We are keen on maintaining dialogue among various groups based on mutual respect and to avoid all tendencies that could create divisions and mistrust," said Mr. Lawzi.

The National Charter contained principles and concepts that can form a framework for close cooperation between Parliament and the executive authority and the Upper House looks forward to such cooperation with a view to promoting development in the country in all fields, said Mr. Lawzi.

The House is keen on maintaining such cooperation to develop education, the national economy, social work and public administration as well as to safeguard the environment, human rights, and social justice," Mr. Lawzi added.

The Upper House, he said, will contribute towards bringing into force a law on political parties and another on press and publications among other laws to be submitted by the government.

Noting that Jordan has continuously dealt with the Palestine question in the spirit of national responsibility, Mr. Lawzi said that the Upper House will continue to back the government's endeavour to help the Palestinians regain their rights and their usurped lands including Arab Jerusalem.



Lower House Speaker Abdil Latif Arabyat Saturday reads the House's reply speech to the

speech from the throne at Raghada Palace (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

once the deficit in the country's fiscal budget, he said.

The House supports policies designed to control public spending and boost investments by the private sector, he said. He urged the government to speed up measures designed to deal with poverty and unemployment and to give these two issues priority in its reform programme.

The ideas contained in the Upper House's reply speech were echoed by a speech from the Lower House read out before the King at Raghada Palace Saturday.

The main theme of the reply speech, which was read out on behalf of the House by its speaker, Abdil Latif Arabyat, centered on the government's drive to carry out economic reforms, support and bolster the strength of the Armed Forces and the public security services and pursue endeavours to help the Palestinian people regain their rights and their usurped home-

land.

The Lower House believes in true democracy, which means respect for people's views, tolerance, integrity, commitment to the provisions of the constitution and commitment to the principles of the National Charter, said Dr. Arabyat in the reply speech.

He said that the Lower House will support its responsibility towards legislation and enacting draft laws on political parties and press and publication to heal the rift among Arab states and reestablish solidarity at the outset of the emergency of the world order, said Dr. Arabyat.

He urged the House's support to the government's endeavours to strengthen the Armed Forces and the security services. He also said that the House will support the government in its drive to introduce reform and bring about changes, especially in public administration which serves as a tool for development.

Dr. Arabyat expressed the House's wish to see a decentralisation process in a bid to promote democracy.

Referring to the economic

situation resulting from the Gulf crisis and the blockade imposed on Jordan, Dr. Arabyat said the Kingdom is in need of a comprehensive national economic programme provided that the largest number of economists and responsible personalities take part in its formation and that Parliament takes part in its discussion and endorsement.

He said that the House calls on the government to place poverty, unemployment, the country's foreign debts and the deficit at the top of the list of priorities in its programmes.

The House also supports continued contacts with Arab countries to heal the rift among Arab states and reestablish solidarity at the outset of the emergency of the world order, said Dr. Arabyat. The House will fully cooperate with the executive authority towards achieving this end, Dr. Arabyat added.

He urged the House's support to the government's endeavours to strengthen the Armed Forces and the security services. He also said that the House will support the government in its drive to help the Palestinians regain their lands and their rights by all possible means.

Jordan will continue to share with the Palestinians their just struggle for freedom and independence, he said.

The audience with the King was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief of the Royal Court Adnan Abid Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid and other officials.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

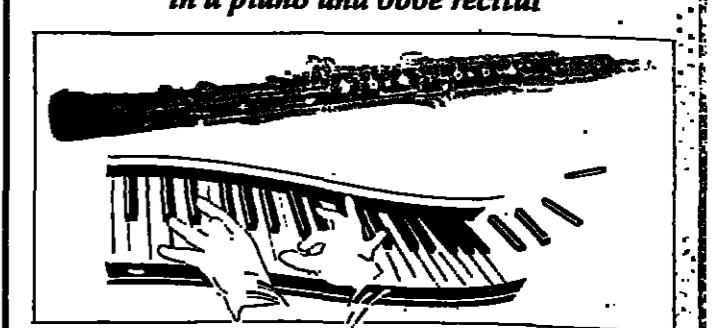
- ★ Exhibition of scientific and technical books at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by a group of Iraqi artists at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jumana Al Hussaini at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jaled Orieqat at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
- ★ Antique Christmas show of Julia Haiman at the Marriott Hotel.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Poetry recital of Arabic and French poems by Arab Canadian poet Maha Ghazal at the Phoenix Art Gallery — 6 p.m.

The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation presents

Sulafa and Otail Haddad and Leith Ismail in a piano and oboe recital



Monday, December 9, 1991 at 8:00 p.m.

The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Hall

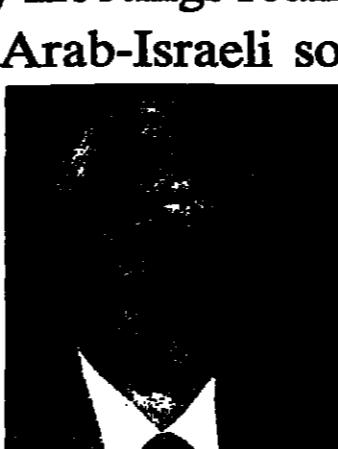
In the programme pieces by: Chopin, Haydn, Prokofiev and others.

Tickets, for JD 4 each, are available at:

The Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 669026

Babiche, Tel. 661322

The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620



Kamel Abu Jaber

said that the meetings among the delegations resulted in a voice of support for the peace process, which aims at the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and other resolutions.

There is unanimous support for the idea of safeguarding Arab Jerusalem and a halt to Israeli settlements on Arab lands to

pave the ground for a final comprehensive solution, said Dr. Abu Jaber. He said these steps were vital to pave the way for the transitional stage and the transfer of authority to the Palestinians.

The OIC foreign ministers meeting is preparing the agenda for the Dec. 9 OIC summit, which is expected to discuss a host of important issues of concern to the Islamic nation.

According to Dr. Abu Jaber, Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict are on top of the agenda for the OIC summit. Current world affairs, solidarity among Arab and Islamic countries and challenges facing the Islamic world, Dr. Abu Jaber said, were also on the OIC summit's agenda.

Dr. Abu Jaber told Radio Jordan that the OIC summit was expected to discuss questions related to Afghanistan, Somalia, Cyprus, Kashmir, South Africa and OIC members' indebtedness.

Participants will also stress the importance of consultations among Islamic nations.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MUHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 23497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Dakar's golden opportunity

THE ISLAMIC summit scheduled to begin in the Senegalese capital Dakar on Monday is expected to draw a record number of Islamic heads of state in view of the recent dramatic changes on the international scene. The Dec. 9 summit in effect provides the first occasion for the Islamic World to reassess the new international order that emerged from the demise of the communist world and the Soviet Union and measure its impact on the Muslim World. The Islamic summit is equally important and relevant as it will provide the Arab leaders a unique forum to hold informal talks to heal the wounds that were inflicted by the Gulf war as well as an opportunity to articulate an Arab response to the new international order. From an Arab and Islamic point of view the Dakar gathering is a timely exercise that neither the Arab World nor the Islamic nations can afford to miss.

The Islamic agenda is undoubtedly large and full of pressing issues and challenges ranging from economic, cultural and political issues that concern the Islamic peoples everywhere to soul-searching endeavours about where the Muslims of the world are heading in terms of political, social and economic development and cultural enlightenment. The leaders meeting in Dakar know very well that Islam once provided the world with a glorious, enlightened and progressive civilisation that at its heydays influenced European Renaissance and hence shaped contemporary Western thought and science. As things stand today there obviously is something terribly wrong in the way the contemporary Muslims are conducting their domestic affairs and pursuing their external interests. It must have dawned on Muslims everywhere that their place in the world is nowhere near to where it should be. Many contemporary Muslim theologians point the finger to the prolonged closure of "Bab Al Hikma" (independent judgement) in Islam as the root cause of Islamic decline. Whatever the reason or reasons for the downfall of Islamic strength and relevancy, the subject deserves an honest and frank deliberation on the occasion of the Dakar summit.

The Arab agenda on the sideline of the Islamic summit is as, if not more, important. The Arab World is suffering from unprecedented division and weakness. What accentuates the need for the restoration of Arab solidarity and cooperation is the ongoing peace negotiations between Israel and the concerned Arab parties. Surely what the Arab side is discussing now in Washington, or will be discussing elsewhere in the future, is of far-reaching impact not only on the Arab parties negotiating with Israel but also on the rest of the Arab countries and peoples. On the occasion of the Islamic summit, the Arab leaders should have an ample opportunity to frankly air out their differences with maximum honesty with a view to forging a new Arab order that would replace the ancient regime of the Arab League. It would be a sad day if the Arab leaders forsook this golden occasion and let this rare and precious opportunity slip away unexploited for the goodness of the Arab peoples everywhere.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'Y Arabic daily Saturday drew contrast between the reaction of the Western leaders to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in August 1990 and their current behaviour vis-a-vis Israel's intransigence and its rejection of the international legitimacy. The paper said when Iraq occupied Kuwait, President Bush, followed by the heads of all major nations of the world, issued threats against Iraq, passed U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning it and later waged a devastating war on its people only six months after that occupation. The world which was watching the Western leaders saw them determined to and enthusiastic about carrying out Security Council resolutions in order to ensure continued respect for international principles and the world is watching the present behaviour of the American and European leaders with regard to Israel's defiance of the international legitimacy, its continued occupation of Arab lands and its disregard to calls of peace, the paper pointed out. It said that the American president and his allies are silent and the U.N. secretary general is doing nothing to implement resolutions passed a quarter of a century ago. The Western leaders are not issuing a warning or threat to the Jewish state and its leaders for their disregard to international principles, the paper added. Everything seems to be controlled by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States, which controls the media and prevents it from even taking photos of the vacant seats of the Israeli negotiators in the conference halls in Washington, the paper said. The paper wondered what the American president and his allies would do in order to help implement Security Council resolutions and urged the Western media to expose the hypocrisy and deceit of the Western allies.

It was not surprising to find that the Washington peace talks were hindered by Israel's manoeuvres as these were expected by the Arab countries, said Al Dastour daily. The Israelis had also created problems over the Madrid conference and they would do that again anywhere, simply because they are not satisfied with these talks as they would lead to an end to Israel's occupation of Arab land, the paper continued. It was clear from the very beginning, and since Washington decided to try its hand with the Arab-Israeli question, that the Israeli leaders are against peace especially if peace entails exchange for occupied Arab land, the paper said. It said that the United States did not wait for Iraq to withdraw peacefully from Kuwait in 1990, but carried out a devastating war on the Iraqi people who continue to suffer until now. Israel, said the paper, was determined to reject peace and the talks in Washington and it continues to disregard U.N. resolutions which motivated the American president and his allies to launch war on Iraq. The paper said that the world is astonished at the American passive attitude towards such defiance. What is more ominous, the paper added, is to see Israel's behaviour causing United States' possible retreat from its endeavour to achieve a lasting peace in the region.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Economic adjustment without delay

IN the advanced countries, the potential economic problems are always subjected to evaluation and analysis from various points of view at an early time, before the problems grow big and sometimes even before they exist. Therefore, decision-makers in both the government and the private sector find themselves under continued pressure to tackle the problems and find the right remedy before it is too late. American budget deficit is the exception, not the rule.

On the contrary, the governments in the backward countries (so-called developing countries) try to ignore and deny the creeping economic problems and use all the artificial means to postpone their explosion. These governments usually dismiss any talk about the economic problems as irresponsible and destructive. Sometimes, the governments, which lack legitimacy and integrity would submit to the popular pressures to maintain the status quo, preserve the vested interests at any price, and defer taking action to correct the situation to the last possible moment. Problems thus accumulate and get worse and worse, month after month and year after year, until they reach the point of crisis and explode suddenly with devastating effects.

For example, we find that the central banks in the industrialised countries raise the interest rate gradually to prevent or check inflation. They lower interest rates to activate the economy and fight recessions. The governments impose more taxes or check their public expenditure to reduce deficit. Industrial companies

conduct market studies to keep abreast of the market trends, try to adapt their policies accordingly, produce the right product demanded by the market, maintain competitiveness, and remain low cost suppliers ahead of competitors in both the domestic and international markets.

The case in the Eastern bloc was exactly the opposite. The Soviet Union used to deny the existence of any degree of inflation. It was trying to achieve this impossible objective by suppressing inflation pressures through compulsory prices which were not realistic and did not reflect the actual cost. The result was that inflation accumulated and finally exploded in one lot. Inflation rate in the Soviet Union is running now at the rate of 700 per cent.

Developing countries used to stick to an unrealistic rate of exchange to their currencies. Governments were under the false impression that it is a matter of national pride to maintain the rate of exchange of their respective currencies intact, no matter what. The results were distortions in the market, capital flight and loss of competitiveness. Finally reality settles in and the domestic currency loses 50 per cent or more of its official value, while much less devaluation would have been sufficient, had the monetary authorities taken action before it was too late.

Today we find out that the Jordanian economy is in need for a comprehensive adjustment programme to reform and remove the distortions, face the huge deficit in the central government's

budget, fill the gap in the balance of payments and promote new investments to secure reasonable growth and create jobs. At the same time we find that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the countries that are able to help, such as Europe, Japan and America are all ready to extend helping hand.

At this crucial moment, narrow-minded voices are raised to push the Jordanian government to act like any other government in a backward country, to deny the real economic problem or postpone remedy, or pretend to be able to solve the problem by its own means and resources without calling on the IMF for help. In this manner more time may be bought, but with the risk of letting the problem grow bigger and eventually having the Jordanian people pay a higher price.

Will Jordan take a rational attitude and utilise the prevailing world order to its best interest, or take a rhetorical position and unnecessarily meet the problem head on?

The state has already chosen the responsible course of action. The economic adjustment programme recommended by the IMF for the years 1992-1998 was formally approved by the Council of Ministers of the outgoing government. It was confirmed by the terms of reference of the new government, as stipulated in His Majesty King Hussein's letter to the new prime minister and reiterated in the address from the throne, which is the new government programme submitted to the Parliament for confidence.

Harder times ahead of capitalism

By Eric Hobsbawm

EVERY editorialist in the West has told us that communism has collapsed because it didn't work and capitalism has triumphed because it did. Nowhere should that triumph be more visible than in the greatest capitalist society, the one which has most consistently relied on the market and the profit incentive, and the one which is still, with 43 per cent of the total GDP of the developed world (i.e. of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries) the dominant Western economy. But neither the mood nor the reality of the U.S. at the moment of Soviet collapse is triumphalist.

I write this in an apartment on Union Square, New York, part of a complex of high-rise towers and office space looking a bit like a King Kong-sized toy town, which was the last completed monument of the great property development boom of the eighties.

Its most characteristic inhabitants appear to be Japanese — anything outside Japan is a bargain for them — but the financial services firm which was to occupy the entire commercial base of the buildings went bust in 1990, and most of the office windows are dark.

"Hard times are palpable in Union Square," as the commercial property column of the New York Times correctly reports. Upwards of half a million square feet of commercial space are vacant around the square, without counting the parking lots and ruins of old property still waiting for the golden future as sites for condominiums. For the time being, the future has run out.

Only the cops watch over it round the Union Square park, from which the drug dealers and the homeless were cleared away at the start of the eighties boom to create the right atmosphere for estate agents' clients. Two police cars are permanently stationed there as a reminder, and the last homeless have just been chased away towards unknown destinations.

Along one side of it runs 14th Street, the Oxford Street of the Latino poor, where transactions are conducted in Spanish and men sit on ladders on the pavement, facing into the open stores and bazaars, to watch out for potential shoplifters of \$5 shirts and discount cosmetics. Today their view is uninterrupted. You could now jog along the once-packed pavements.

Money is scarce, which is not surprising since 9 to 10 per cent of the New York Labour force is unemployed and, more to the point, about one million of the city's seven million inhabitants are on public assistance. But even those who still have money — there is plenty of it about in this town — are not immune. Airlines advertise bargains for the thrifty rich, and firms offer part-

ners "also point to many other factors, including high housing costs... traffic congestion, crime, deteriorating social services" to explain the novel fact that in the past year more people at the peak of their working lives (30 to 44 years old) have left California than have moved in. People are beginning to move out of Los Angeles the way they have long moved out of New York.

The truth is that the U.S. as a whole has ceased to be a good advertisement for capitalism, even in straightforward economic terms. The strongest calling point for the American way of life was material improvement. That is

still what immigrants expect to find, and do find, when they cross the rapidly widening income gap between the developed North and the Third World. But not the natives, except for the top fifth of the nation's income-earners, or more exactly the top 5 per cent, who have done spectacularly well in the era of Reaganism, as under Thatcher.

From the 1979-89 the shares of total income accruing to each of the bottom four-fifths declined. The top 1 per cent of families improved their income by almost 75 per cent; the bottom 20 per cent dropped by 4.4 per cent. In other words, inequality grew dramatically.

In absolute terms, the after-tax income of the bottom 40 per cent of Americans was lower at the end of the decade than in 1979. This is perhaps not surprising, since real hourly wages over this decade fell by 9.3 per cent. In

fact, four-fifths of married families

provide more shelter against slumps than in the thirties. The main industrial countries have not felt the full force of the global economic hurricane which devastated other regions in the eighties, like Latin America and Africa. But I would hazard two guesses. The golden decades of a capitalism without serious economic and social problems won't come back; and capitalism will need to be reformed yet again, as in the Keynesian era.

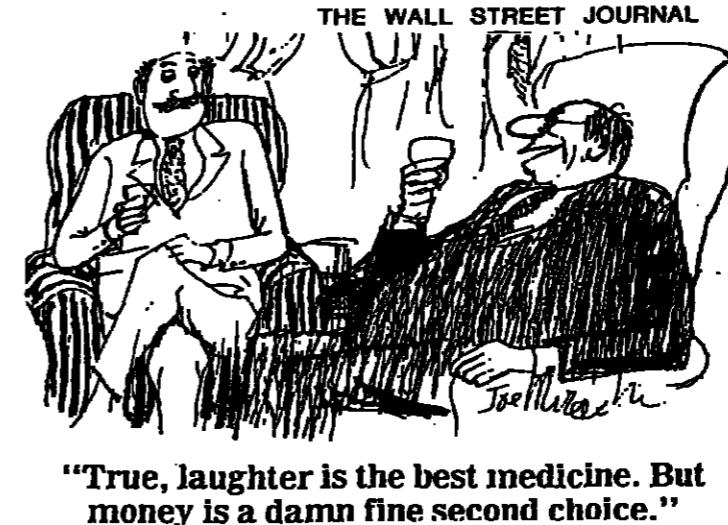
This is ironic paradox behind the rise of Reaganism, Thatcherism, and the neo-liberal economic ultra's of the seventies and eighties. They claimed to save the world from the forces of public ownership, bureaucracy, welfare states and socialism, which strangled the economy. In fact, what they attacked was the reformed post-war capitalism which had produced the golden age that ended in the seventies. They attacked the contradictions of the most successful phase of capitalism there has ever been, because even that generated its own era of crises; and they were themselves symptoms of these contradictions.

If one thing should have been clear from the start, and was demonstrated by the attempts to put neo-liberal economics into practice in West and East — not least in the U.S. and Britain — it was that economic policies based exclusively on the unrestrained free market do not produce economic growth and internationally competitive economies, and they incur a horrendous social cost.

Again, for a generation, the fluctuations of boom and bust, the trade cycles which constitute the basic rhythm of the capitalist economy, seemed to have lost their jagged edges. Slumps were little more than mild dips in the rising curve of economic growth; booms merely accentuated its rise. But good old-fashioned slumps of the kind that only the elderly remembered in the seventies are with us again, even if politicians try to avoid comparing what happened in the early eighties — and again today — with the thirties. Capitalism can no longer rely on continuous growth.

Exactly why, to everyone's surprise, including its own, capitalism entered a golden age after the World War II — the French call it "the 30 glorious years" — is a question which historians and economists still debate. Nor is there a consensus about why this era ended in the early seventies. But there can be no doubt that it did end, and that since its end the capitalist world economy has been going through an era of troubles. The rate of growth of its world output in the eighties was less than half that of the sixties; the rate of growth of world trade had fallen more.

And that, among other things, is why there is a place for Marxism today, even if no longer in the pages of *Marxism Today*. — *Marxism Today*. There is no call for apocalyptic forecasts, even though eastern Europe and the USSR show that



Samuel Skinner, alias 'The Hammer', alias 'Master of Disaster'

WASHINGTON (R) — Samuel Skinner, the new White House chief of staff, is a long-time ally of President George Bush who was nicknamed "The Hammer" during his days as a tough-talking federal prosecutor in Chicago.

When Vice President Bush was seeking the Republican presidential nomination in 1988, Mr. Skinner managed his successful Illinois primary campaign.

His reward was a post in the Bush cabinet and he established a high profile. The Washington Magazine ranked him the outstanding cabinet member in 1989 and 1990.

Mr. Skinner, 53, a licensed jet pilot, was a protege of former

Illinois Governor James Thompson, a moderate Republican.

Mr. Skinner, an early Bush political backer, supported him for president in 1980, the year the nomination went to former President Ronald Reagan.

Although he carried Mr. Skinner as saying several months ago that Pan American World Airways was doomed to failure, the airline went out of business on Wednesday.

"The prediction was right, but that's not the point," the source said. "The secretary of transportation is not supposed to push a drowning man under, but to pull him out."

described Mr. Skinner as "a skilled political operative who tries to build consensus and knocks heads only as a last resort."

He seemed to fulfil that description as transportation secretary.

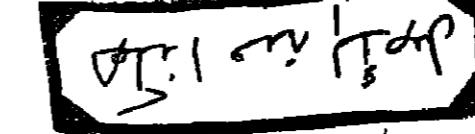
One industry source quoted Mr. Skinner as saying several months ago that Pan American World Airways was doomed to failure. The airline went out of business on Wednesday.

"The prediction was right, but that's not the point," the source said. "The secretary of transportation is not supposed to push a drowning man under, but to pull him out."

Mr. Skinner is a golfing buddy of Vice President Dan Quayle as well as Mr. Bush, and has been a vacation guest at the president's summer home in Maine.

A native of Springfield, Illinois, Mr. Skinner majored in accounting at the University of Illinois and became a top salesman for International Business Machines Corp in Chicago. He won the company's "outstanding salesman of the year" award in 1967.

His first job, he once said, was selling programmes at a horse show at the age of 11. "I made six dollars, and I've been selling ever since," he said.



Arabs inject order to process

The following article was reprinted from the Dec. 5, 1991 issue of the Washington Times.

By Peter F. Sisler

EVILED a year ago as Presi-

dent Saddam Hussein's junior

partners, Palestinians and Jordanians

are finding a warm welcome

in Washington where they are

seen as a cooperative element in a

gordian peace process.

The shift among the Arabs who

most stridently opposed Ameri-

can military intervention in the

Gulf marks the ascendance of

optimism of the American role in

deciding their fate, Palestinian

and Jordanian delegates to the

conference said yesterday.

"There is indeed a shift back to

peaceful solution," said Mustafa

Natsheh, a Palestinian delegate

"From the Palestinian point of view we have nothing to lose,"

Sing voices optimism over ties

(Continued from page 1)

etary is totally groundless.

On the Middle East peace process, King Hussein said that Jordan was seeking the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution 242 and 338 and an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict through peaceful means.

I am optimistic that we are on the right track," he said.

The King stressed the importance of Arab Jerusalem to Arabs and Muslims and the need to restore it to Arab sovereignty, and added that the peace negotiations aim to achieve liberation for all occupied lands, including Arab Jerusalem.

"Yes we are still at the beginning of the road and I do not believe the way will be smooth or negotiations easy," he stressed. "The talks will take very long time and many efforts, but the fight is on our side and it is hoped that the efforts will yield fruitful results."

Israeli absence, U.S. stand draw criticism

(Continued from page 1)

issued tough no-nonsense from anyone statements prior to Dec. 4.

Furthermore, the administration's refusal on Thursday to set a new date for the talks was also viewed by analysts as a sign of American anxiety to appease Israel.

Two other major elements cited by the delegates were the enthusiasm with which the administration pledged to repeal the 1975 U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism before the end of the current session of the General Assembly and the firm denial of entry to cameramen to the designated conference rooms at the State Department to photograph the empty Israeli chairs for media impact.

Dr. Nusseibeh, who favours U.N. Security Council aspces for the peace process, said that Israel's actions would not have been tolerated and accepted, but since the issue was merely a procedural one "Americans probably don't want to play into the hands of the Israeli and wreck the conference."

Yet Dr. Nusseibeh did not fail to criticise the American "soft response," calling it "ominous."

Libya stopped supporting IRA'

(Continued from page 1)

decision on Thursday to ask the United Nations to join it in studying the charges.

"It is not our problem now, I must be clear on this," Mr. Tariki said. "The matter is in the hands of Arab League Secretary General (Emad Abdil Maguid.)"

He said Arab ambassadors to the U.N. in New York would also press for a joint Arab League-U.N. committee to be set up.

"Two or three members of the United Nations have raised these allegations. We are all members of the U.N., we have a charter... we should accept that the U.N. does its work," he added.

"If they (the Americans and the British) are so sure of their evidence, why are they afraid of going to an international court?" asked Mr. Tariki.

Babil

(Continued from page 1)

United Nations officials say about 200,000 Kurds have fled Iraqi

attacks in northern Iraq in recent weeks, straining the resources of relief teams trying to help half a million uprooted people survive an icy winter.

Iraqi forces crushed a Kurdish rebellion in the aftermath of the Gulf war earlier this year. Up to 10 million refugees fled towards Turkey and Iran. Western troops created safe havens for their return.

Iraq has reportedly imposed sanctions on Kurds.

from the West Bank. "The people were against interference by the United States, and they supported Saddam because they are under occupation. After the war we responded positively to the American initiative for peace, which we saw as a sincere attempt."

The delegates said their presence in Washington proves they are willing to accept U.S. terms for the peace process despite their concern about U.S. imperialism. They are upset with the Bush administration for not forcing Israel to the negotiating table yesterday, but they said the process is too important for it to end over one day.

The Israelis also are angry with the Bush administration, accusing it of attempting to force a Dec. 4 starting date on Israel without first consulting Tel Aviv.

"From the Palestinian point of view we have nothing to lose,"

Arab-Israeli talks

(Continued from page 1)

and cited press reports saying Israel would be attending on the same date.

Asked about the duration of the second round of talks, which has been at the centre of dispute with the Israelis, Dr. Majali said: "We are staying until the end. There is no fixed number of sessions."

Sources close to the Israeli delegation said Tel Aviv was pushing to move the talks closer to the region after two sessions in Washington. But the sources also added that the Israeli government has left room for manoeuvre on extending the talks in Washington beyond Thursday.

The head of the Syrian delegation, Muwaffaq Al Alaf, told reporters that the Arab delegations came to Washington to "discuss the implementation of resolutions and principles and the achievement of a specific goal in relation to Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories."

"Due to its intransigent stands, Israel is no more in the eyes of the world a positive element towards peace as it had been presenting itself to the world," the King said. "For the first time the Arab countries are waging a battle for peace with confidence and with determination to regain their rights and achieve peace that would be acceptable to future generations."

"The Americans have failed to show any resolve, especially on this minor procedural issue," he said.

But Mr. Khouri sees it differently. "The Americans are bending backwards so as not to offend any of the parties, and this is what is expected of them now," he said.

On the other hand, Mr. Hamarneh hoped that "the Americans are not backtracking."

"I would like to think that America has achieved something behind the scenes, because if the Americans decide to compromise now nothing will come out of the meetings and the Arabs will be in trouble," he said.

Dr. Nasri said that the American response "reflects hesitancy, fear, and failure."

"In Iraq, the United States did not hesitate to use its armed forces to implement U.N. resolutions, and now the U.S. is not showing that they are a superpower with a foreign policy plan that needs to be implemented," Dr. Nasri said.

Yousef Bouran, Jordan's former ambassador to France, said: "I don't expect from the Americans more than (their present 'soft-line') approach regarding the Jews and Israel."

said Taysir Aroui, a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC). "We know the Americans are not going to press for a Palestinian kind of settlement, but they know there can't be a peace conference without the Palestinians."

"If the Americans thought they could reach a settlement without the (Palestinian) delegation, I think they would try. This is purely a pragmatic policy we are taking."

The Palestinians and Jordanians reiterated the often-repeated statements that their position on the Gulf was misinterpreted and distorted — that they never supported President Saddam Hussein's occupation of Kuwait, they just thought it was an internal Arab problem that could have been solved peacefully. Yet images of Palestinians cheering Iraqi Scud-missile attack on Israel and anti-American de-

monstrations in several Arab capitals prompted many analysts to predict dire political consequences for the Palestinians.

"We supported linkage between the Kuwaiti and Palestinian problems only because resolutions on Palestine had been ignored for years," said George Hawatmeh, editor of the Jordan Times, published in Amman, Jordan. "Once the Americans moved to exert serious pressure for a solution, well, that is what we were waiting for. In March, when Mr. Baker first came to the region, the Iraqis criticised the Palestinians for meeting with him. They said the Americans were trying to solve the problem on their own terms, the same way they conducted the war," Mr. Hawatmeh said.

Despite misgivings about the conditions they had to meet for the first round of the conference in Madrid, Spain, the Palestinians

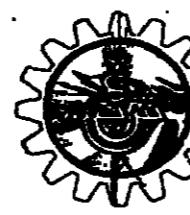
held the most successful round of negotiations with the Israelis of any delegation. That success, and its positive reception among residents of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, rein-

forced moderate Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The delegation in Washington, although considerably smaller, is essentially unchanged from Madrid. It is led by moderates Haidar

Abdul Shafi from the Gaza Strip and spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

Mrs. Ashrawi was less moderate yesterday as she denounced the Israelis for not showing up at the State Department. She said in the lobby of the Grand Hotel that the Palestinians would stay in Washington "as long as we need to" and there was no excuse for the Israelis not to be here."



Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

The Arab Potash Company Limited

Arab Potash Project

Contract No. APC/41/91 & Contract No. APC/42/91

Advertisement for pre-qualification

The Arab Potash Company Limited (A.P.C.) of Amman, Jordan intends to implement a Brackish Water Supply System to provide additional process water to supply the major part of the present and future industrial water needs of the refinery and also construct a new jetty to account for the long term fluctuation of the level of the Dead Sea. The required works are located in the Potash Projects Area on the southern end of the Dead Sea, about 230km north of the port of Aqaba and 200km south of Amman.

For each contract, only firms and joint ventures (consortia) who have been prequalified will be invited to tender. It is presently anticipated that tender documents will be issued to prequalified applicants in February 1992, and that tender will be submitted for both contracts in April 1992. The works required under the two contracts are as follows:

CONTRACT APC/41/91 — A jetty, about 180m long by 22m wide overall, requiring about 2800t of tubular steel piling and 500t of structural steelwork.

Proposals for alternative financing arrangements will be considered; applicants may put forward such proposals in their applications for pre-qualification.

CONTRACT APC/42/91 — About 45km of pipework, most of which is to be suitable for hot brackish water and is expected to be 500mm diameter and either GRP or ductile iron, for an additional water supply system; installation of borehole pumps at the wellfield; and a reinforced concrete reservoir (5,000m³ capacity), earthworks for a reservoir (35,000m³ capacity) and a small pumping station at the refinery.

Applicants wishing to be pre-qualified and invited to tender for any of these contracts may collect the pre-qualification document, which contains further information, from either of the following:

Arab Potash Company

P.O. Box 1470
Amman-Jordan

Fax No.: 962-3377125

F.A.O.: Mr. I. Gammoh
Projects Manager

Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners Ltd.

427 London Road

Earley

Reading RG6 1BL

England

Fax No.: 44-734-491054

F.A.O.: Mr. G.J. Brice
Director

The closing date for receipt of completed pre-qualification documents by A.P.C. and Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners is January 20, 1992

A.Y. Ensour
Managing Director
The Arab Potash Co., Ltd.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT
FORWARDING, DOOR-to-DOOR
SERVICES AND
DELIVERIES. CUSTOMS
CLEARANCE, TICKETS
AND, RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL: 604678 60496
P.O. BOX 7806
AMMAN

CROWN INT'L EST.

Packing, shipping,
forwarding, storage,
clearing, door-to-door
service
Air, Sea and Land

Agents all over the world
Tel: 664096
690852
P.O.Box 926487 Amman

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk
Engineers' Housing
Estate, near Kilo
Supermarket
Mongolian Barbecue for
Lunch Friday only

Tel: 618214
Open daily 12:00-3:30
p.m.
7:00 — Midnight

Tel. 638968

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in
1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at
our shop and get-

* JUMBO photo
size 30% larger
* Free Metal Frame
13 x 18 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays
Bank. Phone: 604024
Swefieh tel: 823891

RENT Distinctive

Villas Apartments Flats
IN ROYAL WEST AMMAN

real estate
"P" U.S.
Just call NIDAL
693037

FAX: 810529

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO RENT IN WEST AMMAN

CALL SOHA
AT

Saudi Real Estate

687821/22

CHINA RESTAURANT

Special Chinese Foods

Skilled Chinese Chefs

Open 11:30-3:30 & 6:00-11:30 daily

Take away is available

Wadi Saqra Road

near Philadelphia Hotel

Tel. 661222, Amman

Once Tasted
Always Loved

12:00 - 15:00 & 18:30 - 23:30

Sports

Samaranch says IOC could cognise Soviet republics

NNE, Switzerland (R) - IOC chief Juan Antonio Samaranch reaffirmed Saturday for a joint Soviet team at this year's Barcelona games, that breakaway Soviet republics would gain Olympic recognition if they won international political acceptance.

"If any of these republics is recognized by the political world community, we have no problems accepting the possible new NOCs (National Olympic Committee)," Mr. Samaranch told a news conference.

The policy we are following ... is that with the Soviet Union."

Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said Friday that a two-year freeze on granting IOC recognition to new NOCs did not apply to the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia.

If the two gained political recognition at an upcoming European Community (EC) summit in the Netherlands, it was still possible that Slovenia — an Alpine republic with a strong skiing tradition — could compete independently at February's Albertville winter games.

Mr. Samaranch is known to be keen to avoid the break-up of the powerful Soviet Olympic team and has invited the 12 Soviet republics to IOC headquarters to settle questions such as a new flag and anthem for a joint at Barcelona.

Reacting to reports of a growing cash crisis within Soviet sport, Mr. Samaranch said he was "unhappy with the situation."

He added: "The only interest

we have is that as many athletes as possible from the Soviet Union come to Barcelona."

According to Marc Holder, president of the International Ski Federation (FIS), Slovenian athletes might compete in Albertville under the Olympic banner.

"We were considering using the Olympic flag instead of a flag that creates problems but no decision has been taken," Mr. Holder told the news conference.

The FIS was one of a number of winter sports federations that met the IOC's executive board Saturday morning ahead of the Albertville games.

The meeting heard progress reports by the organisers of both Albertville and the 1994 winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway.

Mr. Samaranch said a record 59 countries would take part in Albertville, two more than took part in Calgary, Canada in 1988.

But he said a new blood testing procedure to detect doping would not be introduced at the games.

The IOC executive board agreed in principle this week to introduce the new testing procedure after hearing from Keba Mbaye, an IOC vice president who had investigated the matter, that there would be no objections on religious, moral or human rights grounds.

The IOC says the athletes' commission has also agreed to the new tests, which will complement traditional urine tests.

But although IOC medical chief Prince Alexandre de Merode has said the tests could be introduced very quickly, Mr. Samaranch said their use at Albertville would be premature.

Meanwhile, the once all-powerful Soviet State Sports Committee, breaking up with the disintegration of the central state, has warned its liquidation could damage prospects for the mighty Soviet Olympic squads.

Leonti Drachevsky, deputy chairman of Goskomport, told Soviet news agency TASS plans to overhaul the sports establishment could leave thousands of athletes and coaches without adequate financing ahead of the winter and summer games.

"The liquidation of our agency ... means a rupture in the existing ties and the destruction of the entire system of training for the winter and summer games," Mr. Drachevsky said Friday.

And he questioned whether the Soviet Olympic Committee, now taking charge of the teams, could handle the job.

Mr. Drachevsky's comments underlined simmering tensions inside the Soviet sports machine, as the biocentric sports committee gives way to other, less-centralised bodies.

But he offered no evidence the Soviet teams — always among the

medal leaders — would not be present for the winter games in Albertville, France, or the summer contest at Barcelona.

Goskomport, responsible in the past for Olympic preparations in cooperation with the Olympic committee, was ordered to disband by the present Soviet collective leadership.

Soviet Sports Federations, including those for athletics and ice hockey, have found themselves short of up to half the money they needed for full-scale preparation and, were now trying to raise money from sponsors.

However, the 12 republics have reaffirmed their plans to field full teams — at least for 1992.

Vitali Smirnov, chairman of the Soviet National Olympic Committee, Thursday acknowledged financial troubles saying the team had enough funding for Albertville but needed about \$1 million more for Barcelona.

Despite the secessionist ambitions of some of the Soviet Union's 12 republics, Smirnov said the Soviet Union planned to send a record 800 competitors to Barcelona.

Sampras suffers another major tennis setback

ANTWERP (R) — Pete Sampras, whose defeat by Guy Forget handed the Davis Cup to France last weekend, suffered another reverse Friday.

The American lost 6-3 6-4 to unseeded Italian Omar Camporse in the quarterfinals of the \$1 million European Communi-

ty Championship.

Sluggish Sampras repeatedly squandered easy chances and went down in just 52 minutes, to whistles from the disappointed crowd.

Camporse now meets another American, Aaron Krickstein, who beat eighth-seeded Swede Magnus Gustafsson 6-1 6-4 in other quarterfinal action.

The other semifinal is between the big two, Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker. Lendl beat an injured Forget 6-4 6-4, while the German disposed of Czechoslovak Pete Korda 7-6 6-2.

The 20-year-old Sampras, who said earlier he was to blame for the Americans' unexpected defeat by France in the Davis Cup, disappeared after the match, a tournament official said.

"He played so badly," said the 23-year-old Camporse. "It was not a nice match."

Second-seed Becker clinched his semifinal slot with some superior serving which gave him the first-set tiebreak 7-3.

Then he overcame Korda's final resistance with a service break in the sixth game of the second set, passing the Czechoslovak with a scorching cross-court shot.

Korda, who lost his only previous match with Becker, said: "I didn't serve well, I didn't play well. I didn't have a good feeling for the ball today."

Davis Cup hero Forget was hampered by a sore knee in his defeat by Lendl. "(The knee) didn't hurt a lot but I still feel it, I still have that little inflammation," said Forget. "I feel like I cannot run 100 per cent on some shots."

IMMIGRATION TO CANADA FOR BUSINESS PEOPLE AND INVESTORS only

THE KONSUL GROUP is proud to announce the arrival of Pierre A. Collette, an immigration and investment lawyer who will be available for consultation at the INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL in AMMAN, between the 8th and the 9th of December.

THE KONSUL GROUP guarantees that it will successfully prepare and submit your file to the immigration authorities or it will not charge for its services.

For FREE consultation, contact the hotel for an appointment or our NEW ADDRESS for information:

THE KONSUL GROUP
1255 University s.300
Montreal, Québec
CANADA H3B 3B4

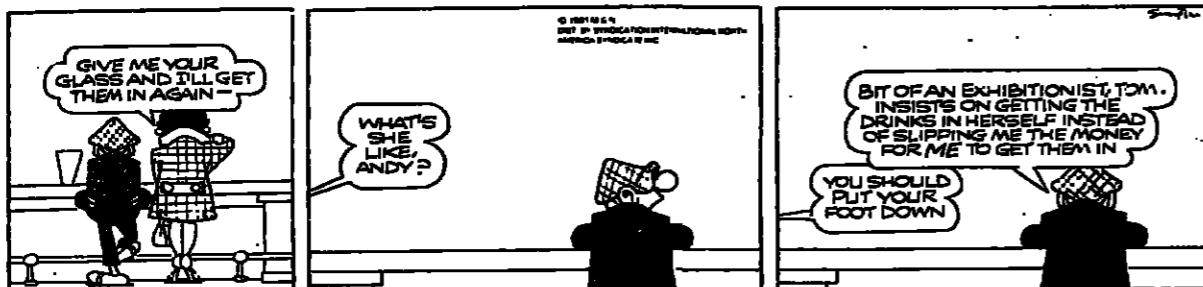
Tel.: (514) 866-8666
Fax: (514) 874-0827

Tel: (514) 426-8666
Fax: (514) 426-2020

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



JORDAN SOCCER ROUNDUP

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Faisali has reached a step closer to capturing the No. 2 spot after beating Al Ahli in the match played Friday at Al Husseini Youth City Stadium in Amman.

Both teams needed the win to almost secure the runner up position after Al Whidat convincingly claimed the top spot.

Al Ahli's goalkeeper Hassan Hameidi put up a great effort as Al Faisali lost many scoring chances throughout the game.

Al Faisali's Milad Abbasi lost a penalty shot in the 54th minute, but Jamal Abu Abdellah secured his team's win when he scored the only goal of the match thus eliminating Al Ahli's hopes of being No. 2.

Meanwhile, Al Karmel kept their hopes alive of staying in the premier league when they beat Al Qadissieh in the match played Friday at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid.

Had Al Karmel lost they would have surely dropped alongside Al Jazireh and Al Jeel to the second division.

However Al Karmel played with determination in quite a competitive match. Although the first half was scoreless, the second half was exciting and fast, as Al Karmel relentlessly attacked and Suleiman Fayed scored the first goal. But Al Qadissieh's Ra'd Al Momani quickly equalised in the 70th minute. Only three minutes later Al Karmel's Naser Abu Hadeed scored the second goal but Al Qadissieh's Mazen Shafeeq again equalised in 82nd minute.

Al Karmel's Majed Al Serrieh scored the decisive winning goal in the 88th minute. Al Karmel now need to beat Al Ramtha (provided Al Arabi loses to Al Qadissieh, whereupon Al Karmel must beat Al Arabi) to stay in the first division.

In another match played Thursday in Amman, Al Arabi nearly secured their position in the premier division when they beat Al Jazireh 2-0.

Al Arabi's Ayman Al Omari scored the first goal from a header in the 29th minute, while Al Jazireh repeatedly tried to score the equalising goal to no avail and lost many scoring chances.

Al Arabi's Raker Karasneh scored the second goal in the 83rd minute giving his team a precious win over Al Jazireh.

In the fourth match of the week, Al Whidat suffered their first defeat Wednesday as Al Hussein scored a 2-1 victory.

After a series of disappointing results, Al Hussein played with an obvious determination to improve their record, denying Al Whidat the chance of equalising Al Faisali's and Al Ahli's previous records of ending the season without a loss.

Al Hussein managed to stop Al Whidat's strikers from scoring apart from Hisham Abdul Mum'in's goal in the 14th minute.

Al Hussein's equaliser came in the 18th minute when Kamal Al Kharouf scored. Al Hussein's Ihsan Ayyoub scored his team's winning goal in the 72nd minute, raising to 5 the number of goals scored against Al Whidat.

Standings

After the 17th week

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Al Whidat	14	1	1	31	5	29
Al Faisali	12	1	4	29	13	25
Al Ahli	9	4	4	28	15	22
Al Ramtha	9	1	4	30	13	19
Al Qadissieh	7	2	8	21	27	16
Al Hussein	6	4	6	27	21	16
Al Arabi	5	5	7	24	22	15
Al Karmel	6	1	10	20	38	13
Al Jazireh	2	2	13	13	26	6
Al Jeel	1	1	14	7	46	3

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 1991
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Scorpio

There are some very good chances to make real headway toward unique and progressive aims by turning what seems to be a difficult situation to your own credit and advantage.

Capricorn

Scorpio

Poland's new premier warns of further tightening of belts

WARSAW (R) — Former Solitary lawyer Jan Olszewski was elected Poland's prime minister Friday and immediately warned the belts might have to be tightened further with little sign of the recession easing.

"The economic situation is such that no government may count on quick or easy success, only on any success for a long time," Mr. Olszewski said. "We may have to appeal to society for further sacrifices."

Mr. Olszewski was reluctantly nominated by President Lech Walesa, who said he doubted whether the new premier was fit to conduct a coherent economic policy.

"I am aware how dramatic is the economic situation of the country and how difficult are the tasks that this government faces," he said before the vote. "This task would be a bed of thorns for any prime minister."

Tough policies pursued by the first two Solidarity governments since January 1990 paved the way towards a free-market economy and stopped spiraling inflation, but they have also caused an acute industrial slump and two million unemployed.

Four of the five parties in the Olszewski coalition campaigned freely in the election against the outgoing government's economic

polices. Critics charge however that it has failed to come up with a programme of its own.

Immediately after nominating Mr. Olszewski Thursday, Mr. Walesa questioned the ability of any government he forms to cope with economic problems.

"The gentlemen who will sit in this government will not have the slightest idea about possibilities or programmes," Mr. Walesa said.

Mr. Olszewski told the Sejm he would form a government of experts irrespective of the relative strengths of the various political parties.

President Walesa Friday nominated a little known woman lawyer to head Poland's central bank, prompting banking specialists to ask if he was sending the right signal to the financial community at home and abroad.

Flama Gronkiewicz-Waltz, a Warsaw university specialist in banking law, was named to replace Grzegorz Wojtowicz, who was dismissed in August for alleged negligence and is under investigation in Poland's biggest financial scandal.

The national daily *Rzeczpospolita* said the nomination, which must be approved by parliament, failed to give an expected assurance that the National Bank of Poland would stick to tight

monetary policies following October's parliamentary elections.

Mr. Walesa wants to continue with monetarist policies which have the approval of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

But Mr. Olszewski is a critic of the economic programme of the past two years. He says Poland must ease austerity to fight recession and renegotiate its IMF deal.

Rzeczpospolita questioned whether Ms. Gronkiewicz-Waltz, who is believed to be aged about 40, was the right person to keep the central bank on course in such circumstances.

It said she was a respected specialist but had no practical banking experience and was unknown in the banking world. Andrzej Wroblewski, editor of the Warsaw banking newspaper *Gazeta Bankowa*, said he had not heard of Ms. Gronkiewicz-Waltz.

Piotr Aleksandrowicz, deputy editor of *Rzeczpospolita*, said Mr. Walesa would have reassured the financial world that Poland was staying on course if he nominated "a person giving from the start a guarantee of running a tough monetary policy and proper management of the central bank."

He said nomination of well-known monetarists like outgoing

finance minister Leszek Balcerowicz or his former deputy, Marek Dabrowski, would have sent out the necessary signal.

"The candidacy of Ms. Gronkiewicz-Waltz, doubtless a person of the highest qualifications in banking law but little known for her work in state structures, is not such an expected signal," Mr. Aleksandrowicz said.

M. Dabrowski was Mr. Walesa's first choice for the central bank post but the previous parliament rejected him in September.

Mr. Aleksandrowicz said, however, that there was no reason to exclude the possibility that Ms. Gronkiewicz-Waltz could turn out to be a monetarist and a person capable of imposing monetarist policy on the Polish banking system.

It said she had advised Ms.

Walesa on matters concerning a new banking law that was approved by the previous parliament but which he refused last month to sign into law.

Poland's banking system has

been in confusion since August, hit by a series of scandals.

The central bank presidency

has been vacant since Aug. 9

when Mr. Wojtowicz was sus-

pended on suspicion of negli-

gence in a \$380 million banking

arrears, of which the United

States owes \$355.5 million in reg-

ular dues.

A middle-ranking professional

at the New York headquarters

earns about \$43,000 a year after

deductions, and a secretary's take

home pay is about \$20,000 a year.

Ronald Hewson of Britain,

president of the coordinating

committee of all the unions,

admitted some reports of well-

paid bureaucrats doing little were

true. But he said much of this

occurred because of a govern-

ment's insistence on posts for their

nationals regardless of merit.

Mr. Freeman said the differ-

entials in salaries compared to many

posts in national governments

prevented the United Nations

from filling numerous jobs.

Consequently several nations, including the United States, Canada

and Germany subsidised some of

their nationals working for the

United Nations.

900 march on world body compound

U.N. staff demand higher pay, fair pension scheme and better career prospects

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Carrying banners and wearing yellow stickers, hundreds of U.N. employees from all over the world marched on the compound Friday protesting at low wages and lack of career opportunities and collective bargaining rights.

A spokesman for the usually subdued international civil servants said he estimated about 900 U.N. staff from other offices overseas and Canada and Janusz Gasiorowski, a Janusz Gasiorowski, editor of the Warsaw banking newspaper *Gazeta Bankowa*, said he had not heard of Ms. Gronkiewicz-Waltz.

Piotr Aleksandrowicz, deputy editor of *Rzeczpospolita*, said Mr. Walesa would have reassured the financial world that Poland was staying on course if he nominated "a person giving from the start a guarantee of running a tough monetary policy and proper management of the central bank."

Poland has also been without a chief debt negotiator since August when deputy finance minister Jozef Sawicki was dismissed in a scandal involving up to \$177 million.

The two businessmen, Boguslaw Bagiak and Janusz Gasiorowski, fled to Israel in July. Seven other senior bankers have been held in the case and the central bank has been run by Deputy President Andrzej Topinski since August.

Staffers at a mass meeting adopted a resolution which they gave to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar demanding higher wages, improved bargaining, a fair pension scheme and career planning for the \$2,000 employees in the head office and various agencies.

The Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations

Six republics join Russia in price rises

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Friday his giant republic would freeze prices on most foods and commodities on Dec. 16 and six other republics appeared ready to do the same, TASS news agency said.

TASS said Mr. Yeltsin announced he would go ahead with the planned price rises, despite earlier pleas from other republics to delay the move.

Leaders of six other republics later agreed with Russia on a list of goods and commodities with an upper ceiling price, to take effect by Jan. 1, as a prelude to freezing other prices, TASS said.

They also agreed to coordinate their own economic reforms with those of Russia, by far the biggest and richest of the republics.

Further delays in liberalising prices, a key element in Russia's ambitious economic reform plan, had seemed sure to increase the uncertainty and chaos surrounding the crumbling economy.

"There's been no comparable increase in years, if there ever was one," he told a two-day conference organised by the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Business International.

Despite his efforts, the forecast for budget revenue from taxes in 1991 fell short by 200 billion drachmas (\$1.14 billion) — five per cent below target.

Greece's largest customs office will be fully computerised by the end of this month and the 120 largest tax offices by next May. The capacity of the mainframe computer at the finance ministry has been substantially extended.

The booming black economy which escapes the taxman's net equals more than 40 per cent of Greece's official annual output of goods and services, or gross domestic product, estimated at around \$70 billion in 1991.

setting up a value added tax of 28 per cent to be levied on the cost of goods rather than on the level of production or sales as at present.

The law, an integral part of price reform, aimed to prevent the collapse of the republic's finances as prices rose.

The quick liberalisation of Russian prices could make it shop-practically off-limits for people from other republics and induce Russians to cross borders in search of cheaper goods.

Producers in other republics could aim to sell their goods in Russia at higher prices than in their own.

Russian authorities have said they would like prices to be freed simultaneously in all or most of the republics but made clear they were prepared to press ahead on their own.

Many former and present republics, including the powerful Ukraine, say they will introduce their own currencies and Russia warned it would do the same to protect its economy from an influx of roules.

Meanwhile, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, warning of possible unrest, urgently asked republican leaders Friday to help relieve food shortages in Moscow by delivering promised supplies.

TASS news agency said Mr. Gorbachev told the leaders of Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova that the capital had only a few days' supplies left of meat, sugar, and vegetable and animal fats. Demand for bread had surged.

"On the eve of a decisive move to the free market and liberalising of prices, such a situation carries the danger of mass protests against the democratic reforms which are being introduced," he said in a telegram.

Mr. Gorbachev said food shortages could raise social and political tension. He asked the four leaders "to do everything possible to secure immediate shipment to Moscow of food products covered by food agreements for 1991-92."

MERCEDES FOR SALE

Model 1987, type 300 SE, full options, velvet red colour, travel distance 49,000 km.

For more information please call: 687078

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Development Company for Supplies Ltd. is seeking an experienced maintenance person with the following qualifications:

- Experience in electrical products (refrigeration and washing machines repair)
- Repair of central heating and sanitary equipment
- Other qualifications are beneficial
- Salary according to qualifications

Please contact phone: 684352/685584 or directly at location - Barq Supermarket, Dahlat Al Hussein.

JOB VACANCY

A position with a local company for a secretary who commands English as well as Russian. Plus typing ability, preferably English.

For appointment please call tel. 536383 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.



JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO., LTD. ANNOUNCEMENT

Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Ltd. announces that the closing date of tender No. 21F/91, for the design and supply of fine phosphate pneumatic unloading and conveying systems have been extended until

12 hours local time Tuesday, 8th, January 1992,

Wasef Azar
Managing Director

CONCORD
Cinema Tel: 677420
Adel Imam / Sawan Bader in
Shams Al Zanati (Arabic)
Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

'SOMERSAULT TIME' PLAY
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tel: 675571
Starring 'Abu Awad Family'
After the great success it achieved continues its shows daily at 8:30 p.m.
Please buy your tickets in advance

Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Shows

Yeltsin: Gorbachev's vision of new union is bound to fail

MINSK, Soviet Union (R) — Russian leader Boris Yeltsin said Saturday the remaining Soviet republics should give up attempts to form a new confederation and aim instead for a "commonwealth" of independent states.

Speaking to the Byelorussian parliament, Mr. Yeltsin made clear he saw no future in President Mikhail Gorbachev's attempts to negotiate a new treaty for a Union of Sovereign States.

"The participants in the talks are becoming fewer and fewer. If it continues like this there will be nobody around the table at all," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin said the remaining Soviet republics still had common interests and added: "This is a sufficient basis for a Commonwealth of our states."

The Russian leader was to meet Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who has already refused to sign Mr. Gorbachev's treaty and called instead for a commonwealth of states modelled on the European Community.

Mr. Gorbachev is insisting the new grouping must itself remain a state in some form or other.

The failure of the remaining republics to endorse his vision would leave the once-all powerful leader with no real job.

Mr. Yeltsin said Russia would this weekend propose its own alternative plan but gave no details. "I think we have to look at four or five alternatives."

However, he implied Mr. Gorbachev's project for a treaty was now dead.

"One of the most difficult questions is the future of the huge country in which we were born. The attempt to revive the USSR in its Leninist interpretation has passed into history," Mr. Yeltsin said.

The republics have refused to voluntarily delegate to the centre the powers which it has demanded of them. Today we see the failure of the idea of a half-federation, half-confederation which would bind each state implicitly under a system of dual power."

Mr. Yeltsin warned that any attempt to preserve the centre in new forms could lead to "the rebirth of the system which has already led us into a blind alley for more than 70 years."

"The main thing is not to demand the impossible from each other at this moment. If we do otherwise, any treaty, however correct, may turn into just a piece of paper."

At no point did Mr. Yeltsin mention Mr. Gorbachev, who was not invited to the weekend talks among the leaders of the three Slavic republics and hold much economic power.

The summit at a country house near the frontier city of Brest will take place behind closed doors and will continue Sunday.

On Monday the three leaders, joined by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, will meet

Mr. Gorbachev in Moscow for talks which are likely to decide the fate of his plan for a new "Union of Sovereign States."

Mr. Yeltsin, whose Russian Federation has already snatched much of the Kremlin's former power, is clearly the dominant figure within the Slavic group.

On Friday he announced the freezing of prices on most foods and commodities from Dec. 16, forcing at least six hesitant republics to agree at a special meeting to a similar if slower course.

"The danger of destruction of economic space and economic union enabled us to find acceptable solutions on the most complicated issues," Soviet Prime Minister Ivan Silayev explained after the session.

The leaders met against a backdrop of crumbling food supplies and summer unrest.

Mr. Gorbachev appealed to republican leaders for urgent food deliveries to Moscow city order to head off social disturbances. Authorities a wave of food thefts.

Mr. Yeltsin said many complex problems would arise if Ukraine were to be left out of the new commonwealth. "We would end up on opposite sides of the barricades," he said.

It (Ukraine) is a very powerful state and without it, not only the shape of the commonwealth would change but also the balance of interests and economic possibilities."

Mr. Yeltsin predicted the

weekend talks would find a solution. "These will be really historic days. I am convinced that in the new situation we must not panic or give in to despair."

Ukraine, the Soviet Union's second most important republic after Russia, last weekend voted overwhelmingly for independence.

Meanwhile, breakaway Moldova called Friday for United Nations help against Soviet army units which it accused of launching a coup and trying to establish a military dictatorship.

Leaders of the small southwestern republic, which declared independence from Moscow in August, said the Soviet troops had "occupied" areas populated by ethnic Russians and distributed hundreds of weapons to extremists.

"The independence, integrity and even the life of Moldova's citizens are threatened," they said in an appeal broadcast on Romanian Radio.

Developments over the past few days show that a fascist military-political putsch has started against the Moldova Republic, which could have tragic consequences also for neighbouring states."

President Mircea Snegur, Prime Minister Valeriu Muravitch and parliamentary speaker Alexander Mosanu called on the U.N. Security Council to send observers to the republic, which borders Romania.

Mr. Yeltsin said many complex problems would arise if Ukraine were to be left out of the new commonwealth. "We would end up on opposite sides of the barricades," he said.

It (Ukraine) is a very powerful state and without it, not only the shape of the commonwealth would change but also the balance of interests and economic possibilities."

Mr. Yeltsin predicted the

Mandela sees U.S. investment after apartheid

PITTSBURGH (R) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela has said that U.S. business leaders have been receptive to his requests for investment in a post-apartheid South Africa.

"I can say, as a general comment, that the response of the business community has been positive," he told a news conference after a speech at the University of Pittsburgh.

"As a result of the discussions that were held, we are certain that our message has been well received," he said.

Mr. Mandela, who visited the United Nations earlier in the week and the White House Thursday, is on a week-long tour of the United States to promote investment in a post-apartheid South Africa.

"Contrary to what you might have heard or read, let me assure you that the ANC is not an enemy of private enterprise or the market system," he said in a speech outlining what he called a "South African economy in decline and describing the ANC's vision of its marketplace in the future."

"We are determined to create the necessary climate which the foreign investor will find attractive," he said.

But Mandela urged that economic sanctions against South Africa be continued until an interim, non-racial government is in place, which he said would take "a matter of months."

The United States lifted its sanctions against South Africa this summer.

In Oslo, Archbishop Desmond Tutu said Friday he believed it would take at least a year to conclude negotiations on introducing democracy to South Africa.

"If we are being realistic, we should say we give the negotiation process at least a year," said Arch. Tutu, head of the Anglican Church in South Africa and a leading anti-apartheid campaigner.

Arch. Tutu was speaking to reporters at a symposium marking the 90th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo. He won the award in 1984.

The African National Congress (ANC) and other anti-apartheid groups will hold full-scale constitutional talks with the white-led South African government on Dec. 20 and 21.

"But ... taking into consideration the current political econ-

omic situation, he asked the government to perform its functions at the head of state administration until the formation of a new government.

Mr. Tutu, from the former Communist Party, offered his resignation on the third day of a political crisis which erupted when his Democratic Party coalition partners quit the government.

The crisis fuelled growing anxiety among the country's three million inhabitants, already struggling to survive the harsh Balkan winter amid chronic food shortages.

Democratic Party sources said

Mozart over an unpaid debt may have hastened the composer's end. Mozart's death in Vienna in the age of after what his doctors described as a "heated military fever" has attracted endless speculation over the past two centuries. A popular theory is that he was poisoned by his rival, Salieri. Sadie, however, says

Mozart faced growing money problems after leaving his post as director of the court orchestra in Salzburg 10 years before he died on Dec. 5, 1791. Debts mounted as Mozart was unable to cut back on the high standard of living he had enjoyed in more prosperous times. The month before he died, a wealthy aristocrat, Prince Carl Lichnowsky, successfully sued Mozart over an unpaid debt.

Sadie believes the legal action must have been undertaken for personal reasons as the nobleman did not need the money. Sadie suggests the court judgment may have made Mozart too downcast to resist his feverish illness. "He may not have been murdered but it could be that Lichnowsky's persecution sent him prematurely to his grave."

Frustrated official leaves Japan's oldest document

TOKYO (R) — Archaeologists have discovered Japan's oldest written document, a letter by a low-ranking imperial official complaining he wasn't paid enough.

Experts said it was Japan's oldest written document. Paper was used for documents until the ninth century.

Alice In Wonderland house up for sale

LONDON (R) — The house which inspired Lewis Carroll to write Alice in Wonderland, a fantasy tale that has delighted generations of children, was put on sale for £360,000 (\$640,000).

The house in the picturesque Cotswolds northwest of London contains the original door through which Alice disappeared to start her adventures in Carroll's story.

Her removal was regarded by

most EC leaders as another

change in the political landscape

especially since her successor John Major proclaimed that he wanted Britain at the heart of Europe.

The two treaty conferences for-

mal opened in Rome last De-

cember and all of 1991 was spent

negotiating the texts.

Civil war in Yugoslavia and the collapse of the Soviet Union have

been a breakthrough in the EC states to

break step on their journey.

Only after Maastricht, assum-

ing a deal is done, will the Com-

munity be able to turn its atten-

tion fully to the growing queue of

would-be members at its door

and the upheavals beyond its walls.

The real debate was over the

wording of a declaration of sup-

port for the principle of German

unification and the conditions

which should be attached.

Mr. Kohl was determined to

repair relations with France, re-

establish the Bonn-Paris axis as

the engine of EC progress and

ease fears of Bonn's ambitions.

In April 1990, he and President

François Mitterrand made a joint

appeal for the EC to negotiate

political union in parallel with the

monetary talks.

A special summit that month in

Dublin endorsed the general

idea, again despite Mrs. Thatcher's

objections, and at the regular

Dublin meeting in June the lead-

ers agreed to open formal treat-

y negotiations on political union by

the end of year as well.

German unification was only

completed in October, and the

same month Mrs. Thatcher was

isolated at a special summit in

Rome which agreed to start stage

two of monetary union in 1994.

Within a month, she had been

ousted by her party.

Her removal was regarded by

most EC leaders as another

change in the political landscape

especially since her successor

John Major proclaimed that he

wanted Britain at the heart of

Europe.

The real debate was over the

wording of a declaration of sup-

port for the principle of German

unification and the conditions

which should be attached.

Mr. Kohl was determined to

repair relations with France, re-

establish the Bonn-Paris axis as

the engine of EC progress and

ease fears of Bonn's ambitions.

In April 1990, he and President

François Mitterrand made a joint

appeal for the EC to negotiate

political union in parallel with the

monetary talks.

A special summit that month in

Dublin endorsed the general

idea, again despite Mrs. Thatcher's

objections, and at the regular

Dublin meeting in June the lead-

ers agreed to open formal treat-

y negotiations on political union by

the end of year as well.

German unification was only

completed in October, and the

same month Mrs. Thatcher was

isolated at a special summit in

Rome which agreed to start stage

two of monetary union in 1994.

Within a month, she had been

ousted by her party.

Her removal was regarded by